

\$2

FEBRUARY 2020 | VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

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Black History Month 2020: African Americans and the vote. **Page 4**

MEET YOUR
VENDOR: CINDY
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GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.



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It's time for inclusion at int'l street paper conference



ELIZABETH "LIT" KURTZ
Groundcover vendor No. 159

While the homeless population and its supporters struggle for emergency shelter and subsequent housing, little attention is given to other important

battles that make up the homeless struggle. These include recognition and inclusion in the governing bodies that make decisions about our future.

Such is the dilemma with the INSP. While February's International Network of Street Papers' Vendor Week is set aside to highlight the accomplishments of vendors around the world, it has yet to include vendors on the platform of its annual conference during the month of June.

This organization, which is arguably a model of self-sufficiency and growth for the homeless population, is still governed by people who have not

experienced homelessness firsthand.

The annual meeting was only designed for staffers. A quote from their website reveals that it is "the only forum where street paper staff can meet with colleagues from around the world to learn from each other, share experience and form partnerships."

Undoubtedly, these staffers have wonderful intentions, but they are missing the vital element of not only learning from each other, but also from the vendors. The exclusion of vendor input only widens the chasm of misunderstanding between them and the people they are committed to serve.

Until vendors have a voice, the organization is destined to never reach its full potential.

So, if you happen to pick up a paper and read this article during this, our International Street Paper Vendor Appreciation Week, I encourage you to find out how you can support vendor inclusion in the organization in which we as vendors play such a vital role.

For more about vendor inclusion in the INSP, please visit litspage.weebly.com.

Homelessness: vanguard of revolution?



CHRIS ELLIS
Groundcover vendor No. 159

Homelessness is a residue. I don't mean that in the context of useless dregs, but as fallout left behind in a functioning civilization. Civilizations house the citizen and not necessarily the indigenous entity who is the person of the soil. Societies and civilizations, I feel, do not have a credible record as guardians of this person of the soil who didn't vote for a municipality but whose domicile may be taken or removed by its agents.

I prefer not to use the word "homeless" when speaking of people without houses. That word, for me, sets the individual in a hopeless and demeaning

category, not recognizing the person's inclusion or right to God, country or family. The word does have a use that highlights what I believe is a necessary "class" in the social structure to better define the lower and middle class. It seems hollow to put homelessness into an equation with the "housed," a word that most homeowners would take offense to. A person with a house is not "housed" in the sense of a government or charitable benefit.

Indigenousness, to me, is the divine right to land. I am not speaking of the right to claim, nor of the first peoples on the land, but the right of the individual to be free upon the land, with the consequent conclusion that the whole land is ours.

I have seen homelessness in its varied contexts upon the lives and shadows of real people who rose to the sun, as did countless others who laudably have houses. The real contexts and situations of homeless people are revealed from the inside. I have seen so many tragic individual stories and circumstances. The word "circumstances" appears

deficient to describe the reality of real human beings who seemed, sometimes, to have "naturally" gravitated to their homeless situation. Even the word "homeless" appears to be deficient. There are cases wherein a house wouldn't fix the situation. The individual wasn't homeless — homelessness seemed to be a requirement of a societal deconstruction and deprivation, a part of that individual's journey of self-definition that sometimes requires not only thinking outside of the box, but actually living outside of it for a time.

I have seen young men and women who have fallen through a political matrix and they appeared to be castoffs who exploited the limits of familial support and tolerance. I have seen skilled tradesmen, lawyers, truck drivers — all at one time people living inside the "homed" block — but now discarded and handed an "expendable" card. Sometimes this collected or gravitated mass seem like wounded soldiers in a foreign land, or prisoners of a protracted and unending war, waiting for the latest victim to be tossed into their



JUANA MARIA SURVIVED LIVING ALONE FOR 20 YEARS ON HER PEOPLE'S ISLAND HOMELAND.

midst. Most have stories they are proud to tell to whoever will listen; but their stories are all too common within the group. But still they listen and are indignant, with hope grasping onto dignity and the spirit of survival.

If you observe from the inside, it becomes obvious that this group is a

See **REVOLUTION** page 8 ➔

GROUNDCOVER

Mission

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Lindsay Calka — layout editor

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MEET YOUR VENDOR



**Cindy Gere, aka Kung Fu Panda,
vendor No. 279**

In one sentence, who are you?

The happy-go-lucky artistic artist, warming greeter of Ann Arbor.

Where do you normally sell Groundcover?

In front of Sweetwaters on Washington in downtown A2.

When and why did you start selling Groundcover?

I started about five years ago. I'm a low-income individual who struggles with FASD, PTSD and ADD. This venture has given me dignity and respect through my struggle.

What's your favorite thing about selling Groundcover?

My favorite thing is meeting new and amazing people of Ann Arbor and making new friends.

What is something our readers should know about you?

I'm a struggling artist. My work is currently being shown at the Delonis Center and at the Homeless Artists Gallery at Journey of Faith Church in Ann Arbor.

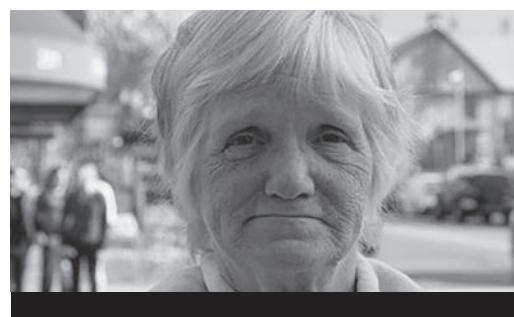
What is the most interesting thing that's ever happened to you while selling Groundcover?

A car came around the corner slowly and accidentally hit this elder from China — she was in her 80s. It just bumped her and she fell, but not hard. The ambulance arrived and she was sent to the hospital. I assisted all parties, including the driver. I told the driver to go to her local church and pray for the victim. She came back and told me it was the best advice anyone could have given her.

What change would you like to see in Washtenaw County?

To bring down the stress of homelessness and prevent suicides by taking all services (such as SSI/SSD applications, mental health, DHS, VA and Medicaid enrollment) and have them all available to all homeless people once a week at a regular time at the Delonis Center.

In memory of Carol Katz



PAULA ANDERSON
Groundcover vendor No. 157

My heart is broken today with the news of my friend's wife, Carol Katz, passing. I worked selling my Groundcover newspapers at Bethlehem United Church of Christ where Carol was a parishioner. She was the love of her husband, a true friend and a loving church member. The tears in her husband's eyes tell it all but, now Carol is in heaven watching over him, family and all. She is now on a new journey with God. You are very much loved and missed, Carol Katz.

Boober thrives on student safety, interviews and hypnotherapy



KEVIN SPANGLER
Groundcover vendor No. 307

I am always into different types of healing modalities. One that has influenced me most is hypnotherapy. Hypnotherapy, or guided hypnosis, is a trance-like state of focus and concentration achieved with the help of a hypnotherapist. They can guide you inward to find and utilize the natural resources deep within yourself that can help you make changes or regain control of certain areas of your life.

Three-and-a-half years ago, I was driving my cab around and always kept running into this same guy, Kevin Williams. While on a pedicab tour, he told me what he did for living. He said he was a hypnotherapist. At that time, I was battling negative thoughts about a relative. He set up a session for me during which we set an intention to fix this issue and set more intention for the success of my business. I recommend him highly.

I have now gone to court twice for this driving on suspended license charge, first for an arraignment and then to plead guilty. Next is a pre-sentencing investigation and then, finally, sentencing.



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10.25 x 13

Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off
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Additional 20% off ads with coupons

Black History Month 2020: The African-American vote



WILL SHAKESPEARE
Groundcover vendor No. 258

Hands that once picked cotton now pick presidents. It's a new day and a new way for America.

— Political activist Jesse Jackson in 2009, three days before President Barack Obama's first inauguration

This year marks two important milestones in America's long struggle for social justice. It is the sesquicentennial of the 15th Amendment, which in 1870 granted black men the right to vote, and the centennial of the 19th Amendment, extending the right to vote to women. The 2020 theme for Black History Month, "African Americans and the Vote," celebrates this former achievement.

Historians from the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History remind us that, "in the era of the early Republic, the powerful state legislatures passed laws that democratized the vote for white men, while disfranchising free black men." Black participation in America's political process through the ballot box was almost nonexistent before 1870.

According to the ASALH website, "even before the Civil War, black men petitioned their [state] legislatures and Congress, seeking to be recognized as voters." After Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation became the 13th Constitutional Amendment in 1865, the freed black men were not allowed to vote. Following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in April 1865, a faction of the Republican Party from northern states calling themselves "Radical Republicans" passed and enacted the 1866 Civil Rights Act in order to help freed slaves gain the right to vote. Four years later, that 1866 law became the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The 14th Amendment is described as America's "Substantive Due Process Right" because of three key provisions it enshrined in law: procedural due process rights; equal protection guarantees; and the immunities and privileges of citizenship, including

the right to vote. When southern states continued to erect all kinds of restrictions and obstacles, the Radical congressmen from the northern states came up with the 15th Amendment, which stated that the rights of an American citizen cannot be denied or abridged on the basis of race or color.

Who Were the Radical Republicans?

Radical Republicans were the most liberal faction of the Republican Party throughout their tenure between 1854 and the end of Reconstruction in 1877. "They referred to themselves as 'radicals' with a goal of immediate, complete, and permanent eradication of slavery without compromise," according to Wikipedia.

Although they were members of Lincoln's party, Radical Republicans disagreed with him on many issues. They passed their own "Reconstruction Plans" through Congress in 1864. Lincoln vetoed their plan to provide zero compensation to slave-owners, because Lincoln wanted to pay slave owners who were loyal to the Union. At the Civil War's end in 1865, they demanded civil rights for freed slaves, including laws ensuring suffrage for freed black men. They fought Lincoln's successor, President Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, when he "favored allowing Southern states to decide the rights and status of former slaves," according to Wikipedia.

Radical Republicans eventually impeached President Johnson after he vetoed many congressional bills designed to provide civil rights and voting rights to former slaves, including the Civil Rights Act of 1866. Congress overrode his veto and made sure that the law became part of the Bill of Rights. The Radical Republicans' attempt to remove Andrew Johnson from office failed by one vote.

The immediate impacts of the Radical Republicans cannot be overstated. During Reconstruction, they made sure that Union troops were stationed in all the Confederate states, in order to ensure that the civil rights and the voting rights of former slaves would not be eroded. It worked for a short while. There were black senators and congressmen elected in secessionist states such as Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina. There were large contingents of black councilmen and black state legislators. Black political power came to fruition in the 1870s. Unfortunately, it did not last.

The Radical Republican coalition started to disintegrate. Former slave owners, white supremacists and the Ku Klux Klan targeted the coalition. James M. Hinds, a Radical Congressman from Arkansas, was shot to death by the KKK. Democrats took control of Congress in 1874. Although Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio won the 1876 presidential election as a Republican candidate, Jim Crow laws were enacted and set in motion the end of the Reconstruction period. Federal troops were then withdrawn from the Confederate States.

Scholars and historians from Columbia University's Dunning School claim that the Radical Republicans blindly allowed themselves to be corrupted by Southern white politicians, and subsequently "made Reconstruction a dark age that only ended when Southern whites rose up and reestablished 'home rule' free of Northern Republicans and black influence." With the collapse of black political power and the advent of Jim Crow proscriptions such as the poll tax, literacy tests, property ownership, registration certificates, residency requirements, conviction of a felony and crimes involving moral turpitude such as adultery, larceny, wife-beating or miscegenation laws, the voting hurdles became too high for African Americans to jump over.

African American Votes in the 20th and 21st Centuries

"The Great Black Migration" started in the 1890s. There were two big waves of the channelized flow of millions of black American families from the south to the northern and midwestern states. Although the black migrants to northern cities experienced racism and discrimination, some were able to gain political power and easier access to the ballot box due to the size of their population. They became part of a winning coalition of women, labor unions, minorities, farmers and progressive whites.

African Americans became part of the New Deal Coalition, and in the election of 1936, they voted overwhelmingly for the Democratic party led by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This Roosevelt coalition caused a national shift in the movement of African American voters away from the Republican party and helped make the Democrats the majority party for several decades.

Although the 19th Amendment of 1920 granted women the right to vote, black women and their male



The African-American vote could well swing the 2020 election.

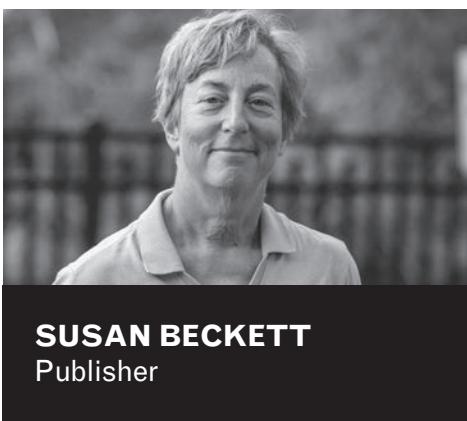
counterparts had pronounced problems with their voting rights in southern states. Congress responded with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited the poll tax and other restrictions. The struggle continued with the march from Selma to Montgomery, led by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., resulting in the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

In 2008, the black vote helped to elect Barack Obama, our nation's first African American president. For many, this milestone signaled the dawn of a new era for African Americans and other minorities.

The vote is potent when used. It should never be taken for granted. Recent politicians at the presidential and congressional levels who discounted the political impact and constancy of African American voting power have regretted their miscalculations and were left scratching their heads. As we enter a new federal election season, the Democrats have realized that they cannot afford to take the black vote for granted as they did in 2016. The Republican strategists now have special minority-attraction projects in order to woo African American voters. This may be a political season when one party cannot succeed without the help of a large fraction of the black vote.

Black voters have been affected by new restrictions in some northern states such as Wisconsin and in several southern states such as Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. Rev. Barber deserves credit for his efforts to improve voting rights in North Carolina and across the southern states with his Moral Mondays and the Poor People's Campaign. In November 2020, we will see if the hands that once picked cotton will pick the President of the United States.

'Center of the City' vision feedback at Jan. 15 forum



SUSAN BECKETT
Publisher

On Nov. 6, 2018, voters approved Proposal A to amend the City Charter, such that city-owned land bounded by Fifth Avenue, and William, Division and Liberty Streets, including Liberty Plaza, the surface of the Library Lane parking structure and Library Lane itself, "shall be retained in public ownership, in perpetuity, and developed as an urban central park and civic center commons known as the 'Center of the City.'"

Consequently, the City Council passed a resolution to establish the Center of the City Task Force to facilitate a shared vision of the Center of the City and develop a report with recommendations for City Council to advance that vision. Residents and the downtown workforce were surveyed, and two workshops were held for that purpose in January. A Jan. 15 open house was held to get public comments and feedback on preliminary plans.

Privately, people expressed concerns that the Commons would become a gathering place for the city's homeless population and become infested with the drug and violence they associate with Liberty Park.

There were several public endorsements of play spaces for children, gardens, art and performance spaces and places where people could express their opinions and discuss matters with others in the community. There were emphatic calls for green space and one man who thought it important that the surface parking area be replaced with

grass as soon as possible.

Roger Miller, a Novi resident who owns some Ann Arbor properties, suggested an evolutionary approach with rotating, impermanent structures, to see how the area is actually used by people. A Kingsley St. resident, Jeff Crockett, encouraged delaying any permanent structures until development of the surrounding public areas such as the Library Lot are further defined, to optimize linkages between the public spaces.

Joy Johnson, a Ph.D student, spoke of unaddressed needs. "I live in the red house next to the Kempf House. This block shoulders the burden of people we have been failing," she said. "It's important that we address their needs, too, and elicit feedback from them."

Shortly thereafter, Zachary Storey shared his experience, "I spent six or seven weeks homeless in Ann Arbor. It's rough, and I was one of the privileged homeless, able to stay in my car. There's a real need that is not being met. I stayed in the Delonis Center Warming Shelter but it is very crowded and sleeping there is difficult. Sleep deprivation is a real problem. Maybe benches in this public space could convert into beds at night as a stop-gap measure. I would like to see more affordable housing and it seems a waste to not use the infrastructure [in the parking structure] to support a large building as intended," he said.

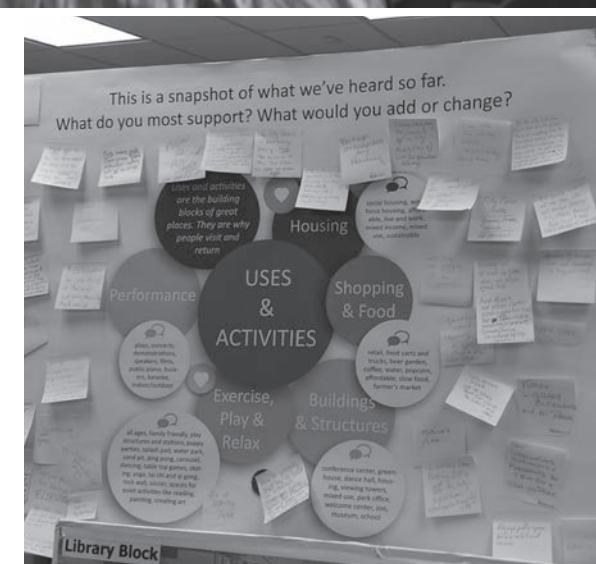
A woman named Kitty responded, "I agree we have an affordable housing problem. It should be satisfied with housing on the old 'Y' lot and other spaces, not here." She went on to encourage people to contact their city council members and urge them to proceed with affordable housing on those other properties.

The City Task Force will prepare a report on the ideas and opinions expressed at the various workshops, open houses and Task Force meetings to present to City Council.



Above: Zachary Storey shared from his experiences with temporary homelessness and suggested the Commons incorporate relief for homelessness in its plans.

Right: Myriad suggestions were made at the Open House regarding the possible uses for the Commons.





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—MICAH 6:8

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International Vendor Week is coming to you!

We will once again celebrate International Network of Street Papers Vendor Appreciation Week, February 3-9. During this time, you might see local luminaries out hawking Groundcover alongside some of our usual vendors. You might also spot balloons flying above our vendors' heads, or people stopping by to give them something special.

Thanks to generous holiday donations, we are subsidizing our vendors' purchases so they will get their February issues of Groundcover at half off during Vendor Week (they will pay 25 cents per copy instead of the usual 50 cents).

You can participate, too. If you see us out there, take a photo, post it on social media and tag

us — we are **groundcovernews** on Instagram, **@groundcovernews** on Twitter and **Groundcover News** on Facebook. Do something special for your vendors — let them know that you appreciate their steady presence. And look in our March issue for reports on the week of celebration activities here and around the world.

Street paper vendors: Letter to my 25-year-old self

INSP VENDORS

Edited and compiled by Tony Inglis

For the International Network of Street Papers' 25th anniversary, we put a twist on the now ubiquitous 'Letter to My Younger Self' feature made famous by The Big Issue, asking vendors to write to their 25-year-old self. For many, this meant dipping into the past. For others, it was a glimpse into the future. And for some, it was a good way to reflect on life right now.

Big Issue North (UK)



Dave (48)

I wish things would have been different and if I could go back in time, I would go back to school and change the mistakes I made. I thought I knew better but I didn't. You should take time to listen to advice from people and not jump in feet-first.

Nicolae (38)

Get married, have a family and build a house. Don't forget to take care of your parents. Get to know God, it might help you make better decisions.

Iso Numero (Helsinki, Finland)

Anglia (18)

When I turn 25, in about seven years, I see myself living in Romania in my own house. Now we live with my husband's parents when we are there. I hope I will not have to leave my home country anymore; that I can stay there with my husband and child — or then, children — and have a possibility to earn a salary there. I

will work and do everything for this dream.

I think I will still feel young when I am 25. I hope I will have done many things by then, that I will be an ambitious woman, capable of getting over the difficulties of life, to be able to cope with them.

Now is a difficult moment in my life: I



had to leave my baby in Romania with my mother-in-law just two weeks after she was born to go earn money. I sell Iso Numero here in Finland. I am a good vendor and have my regular customers that know me very well. They ask me about the baby, I expect them to ask because I think they love me, but often it makes them cry and then I cry as well.

Even if I feel that it was a difficult choice to leave — I am not happy that I had to — I hope in the future I will be able to better understand different situations of life and will not have trouble making the decisions I need to make. If I had the possibility to earn in Romania, I would never have left, but it is expensive to have a baby there. I want to offer more for my daughter.

If I wrote a letter to my young daughter for her 25th birthday, I would want her to know I was here in order for her to have possibilities, that I work for her. I am here so that she doesn't have to miss anything.

Mi Valedor (Mexico City)

Antonio Munguía (38)

"What we can fix since yesterday?"

Hello! My dear Antonio, I come from the year 2019. I congratulate you for having begun working at this mall that we like so much. I am doing well.

Surely you will ask yourself, what have

we dedicated ourselves to in the last year, given our taste in reading and culture? We are now working in a cultural magazine; not only do we sell and promote it, we also take photos and, all-of-a-sudden, we write. Very often we go to museums, galleries, book fairs, exhibitions and presentations. I know that you like all of this, and that you would like even more the fact that, in your work, they have done these types of events. It is good that you feel proud to be a part of this project and that now you know how to get ahead from nothing, earning yourself the respect, and perhaps the admiration, of people.

Please do not put in a broken bag everything that makes you unique, as well as the advice of your parents, who were always loving you and your sister, until



the last of their sighs, and now they are stars.

Be prepared to shed many tears, since each one will be worth it, just like every drop of sweat. With all my devotion to you, evolving from my own past, for one of your many futures.

One Step Away (Philadelphia)

Caia Iglehart (45)

Two decades ago, as you turn 25, you are working for WebMD preparing for the Y2K switch and the implementation of HIPPA [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act]. It's your first and last really corporate job.

You seem to have it really together. You realise you are in a dangerous relationship, but you don't realise how dangerous. It will be several years before you will manage to leave him, but you finally will, just before he gets his settlement, and it



will save your life. A year later he will kill himself and the girl he dates immediately following you. If you can manage to cut

See **INSP LETTERS** page 11 ➔

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Groundcover vendors: Letter to my 25-year-old self



SHELLEY DENEVE
Groundcover vendor No. 22

Dear Shelley,

If only you had taken life a little more seriously. Your schooling, relationships and yourself. When you were young you were the life of the party. Fun, fun fun is all that you thought about. What are we going to do next?

You were a busy child. You also liked tv a little too much. You didn't like winter too much. You did play outside in the winter. Funny though, when you were of age to shovel all by yourself you really liked doing it. But in the summer, you were out-n-about from sunup to sundown. Most of your summers were spent at the cottage. You swam and swam, then

learned how to waterski at 12. You were kind of scared to learn. Then at 14 you learned how to drive a speed boat and a pontoon boat and got your boater's license.

As a teenager you hung out at the pinball arcade checking out all the guys. You actually learned how to play pinball and air hockey really well. Then in high school, checking out all the guys. You worried about whether you'd ever get a boyfriend. You were shy to approach anyone you thought would be out of your league. But you started going roller skating in your junior year. You met a fellow there. And year and a half later you were married at 19. You were told the day of your wedding that you were too young to get married. Your parents tried to talk you out of it. I guess you had that know it all attitude.

Now is the time to reflect what you want for you and your family. Just cut the shuck and jiving, get with reality, in touch with your inner self and higher power and go get what you want. Don't listen to the nay-sayers.

Pony, you are 25 and unemployed. Keep your head up. The struggle is real, know it's going to be hard. Keep your head up for the future. Life has opportunities to develop skills like selling later on. Stay focused and look forward to my future. Keep motivating yourself.

Later you will learn sales skills and life skills. This will work out in the future. I



PONY BUSH
Groundcover vendor No. 305

Renew Salon

renews shelter residents

SUSAN BECKETT

A steady stream of folks entered Bethlehem United Church of Christ as the church crowd left, intrigued by the prospect of a free professional haircut. They filled bags from tables heaped with clothes and personal care items and ate soup and coffee while they waited for a stylist and the massage therapist.

The "Cuts that Care" event originated from a conversation between Jeffrey McLaughlin, owner of Renew Salon in Saline, and his client, Pastor John Kennedy of Bethlehem UCC.

"We did something like this in Detroit and Pastor John asked if we'd ever thought about doing it here,



Bethlehem UCC pastor John Kennedy with Kat Orr, Kristin Kerns, Katharine Kelly, Katrina Tobias, Heather De Irala, Jeffery McLaughlin, Amber Graham, Tori Ziemba, Katherine Raetzel, Shellie L Heurex, Brittany Martin, Angela Pace, and Taryn Scalise from Renew Salon.

and I had. My salon and all of my girls feel so blessed and want to give back," McLaughlin said.

"I have been homeless," McLaughlin continued. "I got kicked out at 16. My husband came today to help with our two kids. We are all so close to this. One man whose hair I cut today just had surgery and can't lift anything. That's all he knows how to do, so he can't

get a job now."

Smiles broadened the faces of those exiting the event. "I look like a human being now," quipped recently shorn Clay Towner.

"It was absolutely wonderful," said Tyler Craft. "I

See SALON page 11 ➤

Help Groundcover Vendors Celebrate INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF STREET PAPERS' VENDOR APPRECIATION WEEK

Join us in celebrating
Vendor Appreciation Week
February 3-9, 2020

Groundcover News vendors
celebrate International Vendor Week
along with many other street newspapers
around the world.



Show Groundcover vendors how much they are valued by the community.



Podcast adventures with Elijah — On my own!

I recently recorded the second episode of the Groundcover podcast, and it was very different from the first. Unfortunately, the vendor I was planning to record with did not show up for the recording, so I had to resort to making the podcast by myself. It was not ideal, because I would much rather hear the stories from the vendors and talk to them, but that was not possible.

I had a little bit of a script, but really, I just talked. It was easier for me to do than I thought it was going to be. I thought I would be nervous and have no clue what to say, but I just had a conversation with myself — which is something I tend to do often — and also tried to make it feel like the listener was a part of it.

I talked about topics such as how my time has been at Groundcover. I talked about the people I've met, the experiences I've had around the office and the great conversations I've had, among other things. I also used this episode to talk about myself more personally. I'm not usually one to always put myself out there and have everyone know a lot of stuff about me, but I feel it's easier to listen and understand someone if you understand where they come from and really get an idea of who they are as a person.

I spoke on topics about my social life and

things I do, like how high school is. I talked about my basketball team, and I brought up some points and thoughts about the camp I go to in the summer. I feel like it was a good experience for me, because when I listen to the podcast I can hear myself go from nervous and uncomfortable to being natural and really having a good time talking.

While giving advice does not come naturally to me, I took the opportunity to share some things that were on my mind about more productive ways to think and act. As I already said, it wasn't the situation I wanted, but you're not always going to get that in life.

I should have prepared better for a time like that, because these vendors are hard-working adults who have stuff to do. They can't be expected to remember to go record a podcast with the high school student that works in the office. I know that I would most likely forget, too, if I were in any of their situations. I do wish they would have come and recorded, but I'm not going to be upset about it, because they have life to deal with. They have to work extremely hard to try to better themselves and their situation, so if there's a decision between helping to better your lifestyle or recording a podcast, I think we all know which option we are choosing, and no one can be blamed for that — it's just called having priorities.

► REVOLUTION from page 2

pathos, a collection in the wake of some unseen mechanism that plunders, swallowing up human fodder, oblivious to those people in the wake. But the heavy apparatus is intelligent, leaving trails of human tears from people whose inner spirit possesses terrible and defiant fight. People who acknowledge a defeat, but wear the badge that the human being, the human spirit, has value and will not die.

Juana Maria was the last surviving member of the Nicoleno tribe that inhabited the San Nicolas Island off the coast of California. Her tribe was a victim of a massacre at the hands of the Russian-American Company, a state-sponsored chartered company that was doing trade with the natives in the Channel Islands around 1814. When the schooner Peores Nadia returned to the Island in late 1835 to remove all remaining survivors of the earlier massacre, they gathered the islanders aboard — but Juana Maria wasn't among them. A strong storm arose. Fearing to be wrecked by the surfs and rocks, they sailed for the mainland, leaving her behind.

In 1853, George Nidever, a Santa Barbara fur trapper, launched various attempts to find her. His first two expeditions were fruitless; however, during his third foray, one of his sailors, Carl Dittman, found human footprints on the beach along with pieces of seal blubber, apparently left out to dry. Buoyed by this find, they later discovered Juana Maria. She had lived for 20 years alone on San Nicolas, the homeland of her people.

This story of survival, homeland and the spirit of true indigenousness, tells me that the war against the forces to make commodities of peoples on the land, politicize our common earth from under our feet, and bathe our soil with the blood of our children is our final frontier, and that the lone human spirit conquers all in the end. It shows that what might appear to be forgotten residue, outside the accounted tally of citizenry, provisioning on the largess and the crumbs brushed from the table of those not expendable, are those in huddled tones, muffled in the shadows saying, "Look over here, we are still here."



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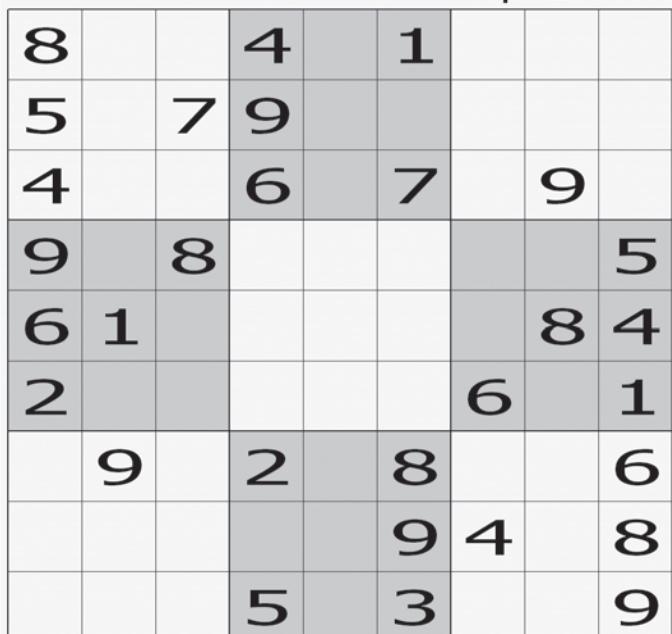
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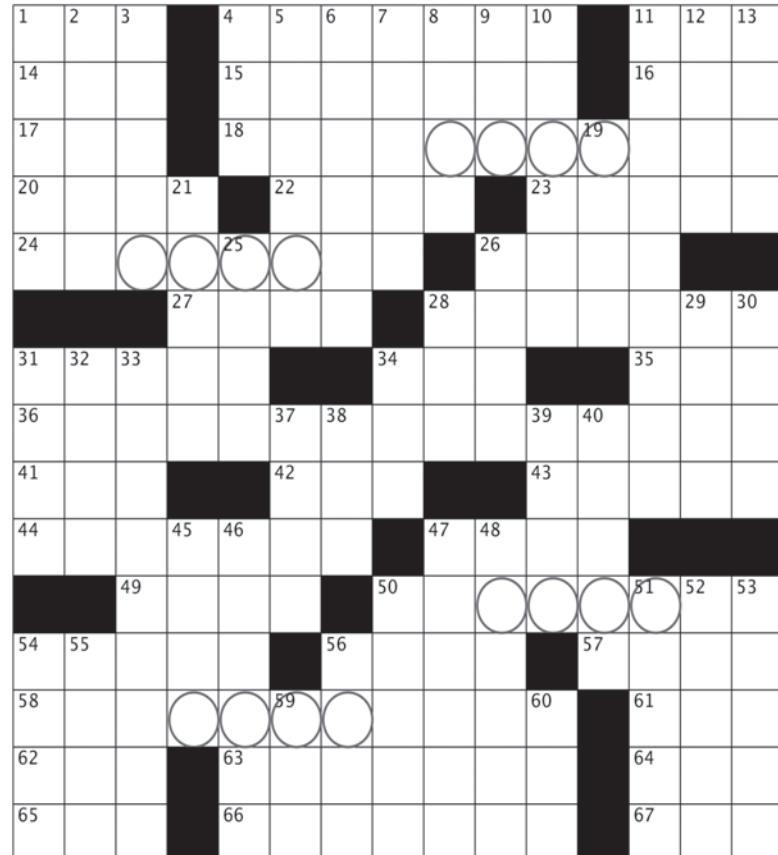
*Jesus didn't turn people away
Neither Do We. United Church of Christ*

Roll Play Peter A. Collins**ACROSS**

1. Dude
4. Wiped out
11. Attempt
14. Slice (off)
15. Like a narrow thoroughfare
16. Tool in a shed
17. Census info
18. Ice cream flavorer
20. Beach pounder
22. ___ path
23. Hits the runway
24. Aqua relative
26. Greek deity (that shares three letters with 27-Across)
27. Greek deity (that shares three letters with 26-Across)
28. Tranquilizing tool
31. Pine product
34. Hair goo
35. "Feliz ___ nuevo"
36. Hit for the Temptations (and a hint to the grid's circles)
41. Hard water?
42. Unusual
43. Shampoo bottle verb
44. Himalayan porters
47. Con game
49. Noted letter-writer of the 50s and 60s?
50. One who might be rushing
54. Hammer of "The Lone Ranger:
56. Epitome of stubbornness
57. China's home
58. Winter warmer
61. Holly's partner in a Christmas song
62. Passe
63. Generosity
64. Day, to Jose
65. "BlacKkKlansman" director
66. Available at Blockbuster once
67. Animal on the Michigan state flag

DOWN

1. Good time
2. Rascal



Peter A. Collins

3. "Tommy" or "Tosca"
4. Election mo.
5. Authorize
6. "Common sense is ___ dressed in its working clothes"; Emerson
7. Identical
8. Narrative
9. Bigger pic (abbr.)
10. One hitting a lot of people?
11. "On second thought"
12. "Old Town ___" (Lil Nas X hit)
13. Cravings
19. Ned's neighbor, on TV
21. Swing wildly
25. Capital of Moravia
26. 50%
28. Cub Scout collection
29. Ones from Spain
30. Zilch
31. Hank Aaron had 2297
32. For one
33. Power-saving state

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- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

You can reduce recidivism and brighten a prisoner's day

AARON ST. GERMAIN

Groundcover prison correspondent

(Editor's note: With no access to the internet and little access to current reports, the author's comments on conditions are based on personal observations. Our insertion of public information that contradicts or elaborates on his assertions is inserted parenthetically.)

Aaron also wants readers to know that the envelopes are taken from prisoner mail, so if you'd like a reply, be sure to include your address on the letter itself. He would especially like to write back to the family who wrote him after his first pen-pal article!

Every day, inmates are released from jail or prison, and the sad truth is that they will more than likely be back. With no money, no food, no job, no support, a life of crime is nearly inevitable. With no support, we inmates feel alone and have the mindset that we are going to fail.

Did you know that the crime rate hasn't risen as much as you think it has? (According to the FBI, the crime rates have actually dropped across all categories between 0.1% and 11.7%) Flooding of Michigan prisons is due to longer sentences and truth-in-sentencing, also known as mandatory minimums. Michigan has no "good time" (sentence reductions for good behavior) and requires a mandatory minimum that must be served before

release is considered.

Upon release from prison, many people lack the support they need to reintegrate. Many people don't know how to apply for a replacement birth certificate or social security card, or even a state ID. You can get those things in prison but they cost money that most inmates don't have.

You can help cut down the recidivism of inmates. There are plenty of websites for pen pals in prisons. Having a pen pal in prison does not have to be romantic! (See my article in the October issue of Groundcover News for pen pal guidelines.)

Some inmates truly want a friend and to build a strong and steady support system. Over time, once you've gotten to know an inmate, you can decide for yourself if this person should be given a chance when his or her parole hearing comes around. You yourself can write the parole board and tell them how you met the inmate, how well you've gotten to know them, the changes you've seen in the person, and explain that you are a support person for this person and will continue to be upon release. The parole board loves those kinds of letters, as it shows an active inmate looking to be better, building healthy relationships and support systems.

Writing an inmate is work, but doing so provides an opportunity for one more inmate that didn't have a chance. Support is a key fundamental to success in prison and after. (Recidivism



decreased by 30 percent during the decade that included the Prisoner Re-entry programs.)

Being locked in a cell 23 hours a day can drive you nuts — trust me, I know. A letter encourages me and brightens

my day, and sometimes it prevents the self-harm that creeps into our minds. You know that old saying, "It takes a village to raise a child"? Well, it takes a community to help an inmate recover.

Legendary U-M VP for Student Life Dr. Royster Harper retires on January 15

WILL SHAKESPEARE

"Some people see things as they are and say, why; I dream of things that never were and say, why not."

— Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Vice President E. Royster Harper announced her retirement on September 12, 2019. She has held numerous academic positions at the University of Michigan for more than four decades and was the Vice President for Student Life for about 20 years.

It is fair to say that the current University of Michigan is quite different from the one that Dr. Harper

witnessed when she was an undergrad decades ago. Her experiences influenced her willingness and her determination to find innovative solutions to student life questions. Convenient accessibility, consolidation, living and learning dorms, accessible computing sites, social media technology, expanded membership in student organizations, intergroup relations/dialogues, expanded study abroad programs, undergraduate research opportunities programs, campus climate, diversity, equity and academic excellence were among her priorities when she got the opportunity to lead. She was also an advocate for community engagement, community service and

service learning. More recently, her lifelong promotion of multicultural learning and friendships resulted in the establishment of the William Monroe Trotter Center on U-M's central campus location.

Throughout her four decades of affiliation with U-M, Harper was constantly dreaming and creating strategies which would improve students' lives and make it easier for them to excel and attain their goals.

In an interview with *The Michigan Daily* in September, 2019, Harper said this about student protesting: "I think students protesting — and for me, protest means having a voice, whether you decide to have that voice with the sign or by sitting in — I think that's



Dr. Harper worked hand-in-hand with generations of U-M students over her 20 years as Vice President for Student Life.

critically important that the students think about what's important to them, think about the kind of university they want to have, because this is your university, and then give voice to it."

► INSP LETTERS from page 6

this and other bad relationships shorter, you can save yourself over a decade of trauma and lost love.

In a couple of years, you will manage to go back to school. Try your hardest to finish this time. Maybe pick just one major. Maybe go back and finish your art degree instead. When tragedy strikes — and as I hinted, it will — don't let it derail you.

You will get married and all of your siblings will follow. But if you and your spouse give in to your demons, you will have serious legal issues and your marriage will fail. Do not follow any paths you already know to be dark. You learned lessons young about addiction, alcohol, crime and exploiting yourself. Please remember to continue to apply them. If you forget, you'll spend years institutionalised and in re-entry.

You eventually become ready to let your demons go and choose to follow God, and a way is prepared for you. With a lot of hard work and special help, you finally become free of them. But it takes you way too long and you pay way too high a price.

Seek a stronger and more consistent relationship with God. Build this relationship first before others. You will understand the importance of this by the time you find a man to fall in love with and want to build a life with. You will finally find him and he will love you in a way you've never been loved. It will be amazing and worth the wait. He will love God as much as you do. You will pray together. Cherish your family.

You will lose your dad early and come close to losing your sister early. But, you, your mother, and your siblings, will all do a lot of work over years to heal from the trauma of your childhood. You all finally end up in a pretty good place, and your siblings build strong families.

Remember to make as much art and write as much as possible. These are your

true gifts and you were given these amazing gifts to help others. You have a lot of beauty inside, don't procrastinate.

Shedia (Athens, Greece)

Maria Drangou (53)

Hello, 25-year-old girl!! I am writing this letter to you after 28 years. It's been a long time, and a lot of things have happened in our lives that nowadays help me to face you with more love and understanding.

After so much time and through the experience I have gained as a middle-aged woman, I can see clearly your faults both professionally and personally. But at this moment, I am not here to judge you. The only thing I will tell you is that I appreciate and love you exactly as you are. I am certain that if the conditions in your life, your upbringing and the environment in which you lived were different, then you would have made other choices.

I want to tell you that life is in front of you and that you can achieve whatever you choose. You can dream of and envisage a better future. Don't be afraid of claiming whatever you want. Everything is possible in this life, as long as you know what exactly we want and to do our best so as to realise it.

Always bear in mind that you are a perfect creation and that your existence on Earth is not accidental. Your mission is to discover your destination and to follow your own path. There, you will meet a lot of fellow travellers. Learn to love and to share your life with these people, because they are your best friends and teachers. Because no one can succeed alone. We need each other. Finally, I want to encourage you so that every moment in life is worthy. Life is so beautiful that you will never have your fill and, as you live it, it seems to you more and more fantastic. So, never give up. Enjoy whatever life offers you. Be glad.

► SALON from page 6

have two job interviews tomorrow so this hair cut will really help."

Brandon Williams, a choreographer who has been staying at the Delonis Center to amass the funds to get to California, has an audition with "Dancing with the Stars" on Feb. 1 and feels good that he'll be going in with a sharp haircut.



Brandon Williams shows off his new haircut at the event, "Cuts that Care," co-sponsored by Renew Salon and UCC-Bethlehem.

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Caramel Sauce

ELIZABETH BAUMAN
Groundcover contributor

1 cup granulated sugar
 ½ cup heavy cream
 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
 Pinch of salt

Heat the sugar in medium saucepan over medium heat. Stir occasionally. Sugar will start to clump and then melt into a light amber color. Once the sugar is completely melted with no clumps and is amber in color, remove from heat. Carefully pour in the heavy cream. The mixture will bubble, and the cream will form a

crust over the caramel. Stir until mixed together. Stir in butter and salt. If the caramel clumps, put pot back onto the heat and stir until smooth.

Allow to cool in saucepan. Pour into a clean jar.

Can be stored in a refrigerator for 2-3 weeks.

This sweet and buttery caramel sauce in a perfect topping for any dessert — we love it over vanilla ice cream. Your Valentine would sure love this on February 14!



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Correction

Our editors apologize and take responsibility for the erroneous caption in last month's article about MLK. It should have read, "The folk singer Joan Baez joins King in escorting children to the newly integrated school in Grenada, Mississippi in 1966."



"My parents will only let me marry someone who's gluten-free."



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